

ISAC RECOMMENDATION: ISAC Recommendation: Recognizing the value of the Invasive Species Working Group established recently under the United States-New Zealand Joint Commission on Science and Technology Collaboration, ISAC recommends that NISC Agencies pursue and support similar opportunities under other existing bilateral and multi-lateral science and technology collaboration agreements for research cooperation on priority invasive species issues of common interest.

**NISC RESPONSE:** USDA agencies (ARS, USFS and APHIS) identified research to do in collaboration with New Zealand researchers. Projects include work on invasive fruit flies, brown marmorated stink bugs, and various research projects on forest invasive species. All the information has been incorporated in the current US- New Zealand bilateral agreement. All projects are ongoing in FY14-15-16. To facilitate this, a high-level program leader in ARS has been identified to participate in a meeting to select future potential areas of New Zealand research collaboration with ARS and USFS.

ISAC RECOMMENDATION: To ensure successful eradication the U.S. Forest Service, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and other NISC agencies share information to perform risk-based Early Detection Surveys for ALB in high risk areas outside current quarantine zones.

**NISC RESPONSE:** APHIS informs that the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) has been successfully eradicated from two states (IL and NJ). It has also been eradicated from Islip, Manhattan and Staten Island, New York, as well as Boston, MA. Infestations remain in New York, Massachusetts, and Ohio. The members of NISC appreciate that the range of this forest-destroying invasive insect has been significantly reduced, but it has not been eradicated and remains a significant threat. APHIS, USFS and other NISC members' agencies are committed to elimination of this and other invasive species that impact forest health.

The two NISC members' agencies that have primary roles in this work are USDA's APHIS and Forest Service. APHIS and the USDA meet regularly at stakeholder meetings and through conference calls. They cooperate in many areas of operations and research for the eradication of current ALB infestations including high risk site surveys outside of the quarantine area. These agencies have developed traps for ALB and discuss how to best deploy the traps including consideration of high risk areas outside of the quarantine. APHIS works most closely with local state government agencies to survey these high risk areas; however, FS has also contributed to these surveys. During surveys, people look for ALB in trees in high risk areas. For example, FS funded a Forest Compact in the state of Massachusetts in 2014 where approximately 3,600 trees were surveyed in five states (Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Nova Scotia, and Vermont). APHIS and FS are currently working together to enhance models to direct survey and eradication efforts, they agree with this ISAC recommendation and will continue to share information and collaborate on early detection outside of quarantine areas as well as within quarantine areas.